

# Sanitation activities in Burundi

## The challenge

Burundi is one of the poorest countries with one of the highest population densities in the world. Due to political instability (Burundian civil war from 1993 to 2005), much of the country's water and sanitation infrastructure has been destroyed by theft, vandalism and a lack of maintenance. The sanitation situation is dire, and Burundi lags far behind in achieving the MDG sanitation target.

Burundi's sanitation situation is currently as follows:

- According to national measurement standards, 35% of the rural population and 34% of the urban population had access to improved sanitation in 2009 (INEA 2009).
- In the two main cities Bujumbura and Gitega, only 9% of the households are connected to centralised sewer systems.
- The under-five child mortality rate in Burundi is 142 per 1000 live births ([www.childmortality.org](http://www.childmortality.org)).
- Investment in sanitation represented only 1% of the total public expenses in the water and sanitation sector in 2010 (Annual Sector Review 2011).

Donor contributions to the water and sanitation sector increased significantly since the end of the conflict in 2005, but the programmes are generally more oriented towards water supply than towards sanitation. While water supply has a sufficient regulatory and institutional basis, responsibilities in the sanitation sector are still highly fragmented, and coordination activities are only starting now. The main government actors are the Ministry of Public Health, responsible for hygiene and basic sanitation, the Ministry for Water and Environment (MEEATU) as well as the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), both responsible for water supply and sanitation. However, all three have a lack of significant implementation capacity.

With the ongoing decentralisation process, the responsibility for sanitation is being transferred more and more to the municipal level. Only the city of Bujumbura (via the municipal service pro-

vider SETEMU) and the city of Gitega (via the communal service provider SETAG) have regulated sanitation services, including sewage systems and wastewater treatment, faecal sludge removal and treatment as well as solid waste management.

Other stakeholders in the sanitation sector are non-governmental organisations who are constructing latrines and promoting hygiene as well as few private companies specialised in pit emptying or managing public toilets. There is an increasing number of organisations getting involved in solid waste collection and in the promotion of natural fertilisers based on human excreta, such as promotion of urine as a fertiliser and use of dried faeces for gardening in Gitega.

The recent activities in the Burundian sanitation sector are promising, but regulation and the operational setup must be adapted as soon as possible in order to organise and coordinate the sector efficiently.

Project name	Water Supply and Sanitation Programme, Burundi
Project region	Sub-Saharan Africa
Partners	Ministry of Water, Environment, Land Use Planning and Urban Development (MEEATU); Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM); Municipalities of Bujumbura and Gitega
Duration	Jan. 2009 to June 2013 (current phase)
Budget for sanitation	2,427,000 Euro
Scale	50,000 people reached directly and indirectly via KfW financing for improved sanitation services in Gitega; people are also reached by policy advice on national level but this cannot be quantified at the moment.



Left: Joint KfW and GIZ visit at toilets at the Lycée Regina Pacis (© GIZ / M. Winker, 2012)

Right: Emptying of vacuum tanker at official dumpsite (© GIZ / M. Winker, 2012)

## Contact person

Jochen Rudolph  
Water Supply and Sanitation  
Programme, Burundi  
[jochen.rudolph@giz.de](mailto:jochen.rudolph@giz.de)



Partner country: Burundi

## Our approach

To improve sanitation in Burundi, the Water Supply and Sanitation Programme by GIZ (PROSECEAU in French) works on improving the political, institutional and legal conditions through a water sector reform and by supporting the Burundian partners in strategic planning and coordination.

## Programme activities

- Establishing national monitoring systems for the sanitation sector to support planning of hygiene promotion and sanitation infrastructure and to evaluate the development of the sanitation sector.
- Strengthening sector coordination through regular meetings of the “sector group on water and sanitation” and annual sector reviews. The sector group comprises of all government and non-government stakeholders and is led by the MEEATU.
- Support MEEATU in the elaboration of the national sanitation policy and its institutional development.
- Support the sustainable operation of a number of sanitation infrastructure projects financed by the German Development Bank KfW in Gitega.
- GIZ is active in capacity building within the municipality for the management of these sanitation systems.
- Support of municipalities, such as Gitega as well as many smaller ones, in organisation and management of their sanitation services, in the development of financing schemes for the sanitation sector and in defining their strategy for waste management, faecal sludge management and promotion of natural fertilisers.

## Outcomes

- GIZ has published key indicators for sanitation covering all 129 municipalities of the country. These indicators serve as a

basis for strategic investment planning. GIZ has initiated an annual evaluation and planning process led by MEEATU, which publishes all activities and expenditures in the water and sanitation sector (joint Annual Sector Review). This will serve as a basis for a sector wide approach to the planning processes. A national hygiene and basic sanitation policy has been issued by the Ministry of Public Health and will be approved soon. A national sanitation policy under the lead of the MEEATU is in preparation.

- With GIZ support, the municipality of Gitega has built up a sanitation service (SETAG) which is managing the public sanitation infrastructure (public toilets with showers), a vacuum truck for septic tank emptying and a small centralised treatment plant in a suburb. Operation and maintenance plans have been adopted to assure the sustainability of the sanitation system. Gitega has also introduced sanitation fees which are not linked to the water billing system.
- Faecal sludge treatment capacity has significantly increased in Bujumbura and Gitega due to the following activities:
  - Rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant in Bujumbura (in 2008, financed by KfW and implemented by SETEMU).
  - Rehabilitation and construction of a small sewerage network and three small faecal sludge treatment plants in Gitega (2012, financed by KfW), accompanied with GIZ support to the municipal management capacities.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany  
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn, Germany  
T: +49 61 96 79-4220  
F: +49 61 96 79-80 4220

Sector Program Sustainable Sanitation  
E: [sanitation@giz.de](mailto:sanitation@giz.de)  
I: [www.giz.de/sanitation](http://www.giz.de/sanitation)

Responsible Editor Elisabeth von Muench

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

Layout GIZ  
As at September 2012  
On behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
Division Water, Energy, Transport  
More information [www.giz.de/themen/en/23208.htm](http://www.giz.de/themen/en/23208.htm)